

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for facilitating customs planning and clearance, the method comprising the steps of:
- Creating in an international customs server, in response to a signal  
communicated through a client device coupled for data  
communications through at least one internet connection to the  
10 international customs server, a customs planning record;  
creating, in dependence upon the customs planning record, a customs  
declaration form for a destination country; and  
submitting the customs declaration form to a customs declaration forms  
database for the destination country.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is a workstation in a kiosk at an airport.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is a workstation installed in the  
20 back of a passenger chair in an airplane.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is a personal computer.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is a hand-held personal data  
25 administrator.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one internet connection is wireless.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the customs planning record comprises customs data describing goods for import, the customs data including identification of an importer and of a destination country.
- 5    8. The method of claim 1 wherein the international customs server is a software application installed and operating on one or more computers, the software application further comprising software routines storing and retrieving customs planning records, validating goods described in customs planning records against customs regulations stored in customs regulations databases, and submitting to  
10    customs databases declaration forms prepared in dependence upon the customs planning records.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein creating in dependence upon the customs planning record a customs declaration form for the destination country further comprises  
15    reading customs data from a customs planning record and inserting the read customs data into a declaration form.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein submitting the customs declaration form to a customs declaration forms database for the destination country further comprises  
20    communicating the form as electronic data communications through at least one internet connection.
11. The method of claim 1 further comprising validating the goods described in a customs planning record.  
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12. The method of claim 11 wherein validating the customs planning records further comprises comparing the goods described by customs data in the customs planning record to customs regulations governing the goods described by the



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**Patent Application**

customs data in the customs planning record and reporting to an importer through the client device a result of the comparison.

5        13. The method of claim 12 further comprising storing the result of the comparison in the customs planning record.

10        14. The method of claim 1 wherein the customs planning record comprises a customs planning record form having a structure, wherein the structure of the customs planning record form is dependent upon customs regulations.

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22. The system of claim 15 wherein the international customs server is a software application installed and operating on one or more computers, the software application further comprising software routines storing and retrieving customs planning records, validating goods described in customs planning records against  
5 customs regulations stored in customs regulations databases, and submitting to customs databases declaration forms prepared in dependence upon the customs planning records.
23. The system of claim 15 wherein means for creating in dependence upon the  
10 customs planning record a customs declaration form for the destination country, further comprises means for reading customs data from a customs planning record and means for inserting the read customs data into a declaration form.
24. The system of claim 15 wherein means for submitting the customs declaration  
15 form to a customs declaration forms database for the destination country further comprises means for communicating the form as electronic data communications through at least one internet connection.
25. The system of claim 15 further comprising means for validating the goods  
20 described in a customs planning record.
26. The system of claim 25 wherein means for validating the customs planning records further comprises means for comparing the goods described by customs data in the customs planning record to customs regulations governing the goods  
25 described by the customs data in the customs planning record and means for reporting to an importer through the client device a result of the comparison.

27. The system of claim 26 further comprising means for storing the result of the comparison in the customs planning record.

5 28. The system of claim 15 wherein the customs planning record comprises a customs planning record form having a structure, wherein the structure of the customs planning record form is dependent upon customs regulations.

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29. A computer program product for facilitating international customs planning and clearance, the method comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for creating in an international

5                   customs server, in response to a signal communicated through a client device coupled for data communications through at least one internet connection to the international customs server, a customs planning record;

10                   means, recorded on the recording medium, for creating in dependence upon the customs planning record, a customs declaration form for the destination country; and

15                   means, recorded on the recording medium, for submitting the customs declaration form to a customs declaration forms database for the destination country.

30. The product of claim 29 wherein the client device is a workstation in a kiosk at an airport.

20                   31. The product of claim 29 wherein the client device is a workstation installed in the back of a passenger chair in an airplane.

32. The product of claim 29 wherein the client device is a personal computer.

25                   33. The product of claim 29 wherein the client device is a hand-held personal data administrator.

34. The product of claim 29 wherein the at least one internet connection is wireless.

35. The product of claim 29 wherein the customs planning record comprises customs data describing goods for import, the customs data including identification of an importer and of a destination country.
- 5    36. The product of claim 29 wherein the international customs server is a software application installed and operating on one or more computers, the software application further comprising software routines storing and retrieving customs planning records, validating goods described in customs planning records against customs regulations stored in customs regulations databases, and submitting to  
10    customs databases declaration forms prepared in dependence upon the customs planning records.
- 15    37. The product of claim 29 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for creating in dependence upon the customs planning record a customs declaration form for the destination country further comprises means for reading customs data from a customs planning record and means for inserting the read customs data into a declaration form.
- 20    38. The product of claim 29 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for submitting the customs declaration form to a customs declaration forms database for the destination country further comprises means for communicating the form as electronic data communications through at least one internet connection.
- 25    39. The product of claim 29 further comprising means, recorded on the recording medium, for validating the goods described in a customs planning record.
40. The product of claim 39 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for validating the customs planning records further comprises means for comparing



the goods described by customs data in the customs planning record to customs regulations governing the goods described by the customs data in the customs planning record and means for reporting to an importer through the client device a result of the comparison.

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41. The product of claim 40 further comprising means, recorded on the recording medium, for storing the result of the comparison in the customs planning record.

42. The product of claim 29 wherein the customs planning record comprises a  
10 customs planning record form having a structure, wherein the structure of the customs planning record form is dependent upon customs regulations.

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